

tenaunce. flatereres been the develes en-chauntours; for they make a man to wene of hymself be lyk that he nys nat lyk. They been lyk to Judas, that bitraysed God; and this flaterers bitraysen a man to sellen hym to his enemy, that is, to the devel. flatereres been the develes chapelleyns, that syngen evere Placebo. I rekene flaterie in the vices of ire; for ofte tyme, if o man be wrooth with another, thanne wole he flaterer som wight to sustene hym in his querele.

SPEKE we now of swich cursyngge as comth of irous herte. Malisoun generally may be seyde every maner power or harm. Swich cursyngge bireveth man fro the regne of God, as seith Seint Paul. And ofte tyme swich cursyngge wrongfully retorneth agayn to hym that curseth, as a bryd that retorneth agayn to his owene nest. And over alle thyng men oghten eschewe to cursen hire children, & yeven to the devel hire engendrure, as ferforth as in hem is; certes, it is greet peril and greet synne.

LET us thanne speken of chidyngge and reproche, whiche been ful grete woundes in mannes herte; for they unsowen the semes of frendshipe in mannes herte. for certes, unnethes may a man pleyntly been accorded with hym that hath hym openly revyled and reprieved in disclaundre. This is a ful grisly synne, as Crist seith in the gospel. And taak kepe now, that he that repreveþ his neighebor, outhur he repreveþ hym by som harm of peyne that he hath on his body, as Mesel, Croked harlot, or by som synne that he dooth. Now if he repreve hym by harm of peyne, thanne turneth therepreve to Jhesu Crist; for peyne is sent by the right wys sonde of God, and by his suffrance, be it meselrie, or maheym, or maladie. And if he repreve hym uncharitably of synne, as, Thou holour, Thou dronkelewe harlot, & so forth; thanne aperteneth that to the rejoysyngge of the devel, that evere hath joye that men doon synne. And certes, chidyngge may nat come but out of a vileyns herte. for after the habundance of the herte spekethe the mouth ful ofte. And ye shul understonde that looke, by any wey, whan any man shal chastise another, that he be war from chidyngge and reprevyngge. for trewely, but he be war, he may ful lightly quyken the fir of angre and of wratthe, which that he sholde quenche, and peraventure sleeth hym which that he myghte chastise with benigneitee. for as seith Salomon: The amiable tonge is the tree of lyf; that is to seyn, of lyf espirituel, & soothly, a deslaved tonge sleeth the spiritus of hym that repreveþ, and eek of hym that is reprieved. Loo, what seith Seint Augus-

tyn: Ther is nothyng so lyk the develes child as he that ofte chideth. Seint Paul chide. And how that chidyngge be a vileyns thyng bitwixe alle manere folk, yet is it, certes, moost uncovenable bitwixe a man and his wyf; for there is nevere reste. And therfore seith Salomon: An hous that is uncovered and droppynge, and a chidyngge wyf, been lyke. A man that is in a droppynge hous in manye places, though he chewe the droppynge in o place, it droppeth on hym in another place; so fareth it by a chidyngge wyf; but she chide hym in o place, she wol chide hym in another. And therfore: Bettre is a morsel of breed with fore than an hous ful of delices, with chidyngge, seith Salomon. Seint Paul seith: O ye wommen, be ye subgetes to youre husbandes as bihoveth in God; & ye men, love eth youre wyves: Ad Colossenses, tercio.

AFTERWARD speke we of scornynge, which is a wikked synne, and namely, whan he scorneth a man for his goode werkes. for certes, swiche scorneres faren lyk the foule tode, that may nat endure to smelle the soote savour of the vyne whanne it florisseth. Thise scorneres been partyng felawes with the devel; for they han joye whan the devel wynneth, and sorwe whan he leseth. They been adversaries of Jhesu Crist; for they haten that he loveth, that is to seyn, salvacioun of soule.

SPEKE we now of wikked conseil; for he that wikked conseil yeveth is a traitour; for he deceyveth hym that trusteth in hym: At Achitofel ad. Absolonem. But natheles, yet is his wikked conseil first agayn hymself. for, as seith the wise man: Every fals livyngge man hath this propertee in hymself, that he that wol anoye another man, he anoyeth first hymself. And men shul understonde, that man shal nat taken his conseil of fals folk, ne of angry folk, or grevous folk, ne of folk that loven specially to muchel hir owene profit, ne to muche worldly folle; namely, in conseilyngge of soules.

NOW comth the synne of hem that sowen & maken discord amonges folk, which is a synne that Crist hateth outrely; and no wonder is. for he deyde for to make concord. And moore shame do they to Crist, than did they that hym crucifiede; for God loveth bettre, that frendshipe be amonges folk, than he dide his owene body, the which that he yaf for unitee. Therefore been they likid to the devel, that evere been aboute to maken discord.

NOW comth the synne of double tonge; swiche as speken faire byform folk, and wikkedly bihynde;

or elles they maken semblant as though they speke of good intencion, or elles in game and pley, & yet they speke of wikked entente.

NOW comth biwreying of conseil, thurgh which a man is defamed; certes, unnethes may he restore the damage.

NOW comth manace, that is an open folye; for he that ofte manaceth, he threteth moore than he may performe ful ofte tyme.

NOW cometh ydel wordes, that is withouthen profit of hym that spekethe the wordes, and eek of hym that herketh the wordes. Or elles ydel wordes been the that been nedelees, or withouten entente of natureel profit. And albeit that ydel wordes been som tyme venial synne, yet sholde men douten hem; for we shul yere rekenyngge of hem bifore God.

NOW comth janglyngge, that may nat been withoute synne. And as seith Salomon: It is a synne of apert folye. And therfore a philosophre seyde, whan men axed hym how that men sholde plesse the peple; & he answerde: Do manye goode werkes, and speke fewe jangles.

AFTER this comth the synne of japeres, that been the develes apes; for they maken folk to laughe at hire japerie, as folk doon at the gadwes of an ape. Swich japeres deffendeth Seint Paul. Looke how that vertuouse wordes and hooly conforten hem that travaillen in the service of Crist; right so conforten the vileyns wordes & knakkes of japeris, hem that travaillen in the service of the devel. Thise been the synnes that comen of the tonge, that comen of ire, and of othere synnes mo.

Sequitur remedium contra peccatum Ire.

THE remedie agayns ire is a vertu that men clepen mansuetude, that is debonairetee; and eek another vertu, that men callen pacience, or suffrance. Debonairetee withdraweth and refreyneth the stirynges and the moevynges of mannes corage in his herte, in swich manere that they ne skippe nat out by angre ne by ire.

SUFFRANCE suffreth swetely alle the anoyances & the wronges that men doon to man outward. Seint Jerome seith thus of debonairetee: that It dooth noon harm to no wight, ne seith; ne for noon harm that men doon or seyn, he ne eschawfeth nat agayns his resoun. This vertu somtyme comth of nature; for, as seith the philosophre: A man is a quyk thyng, by nature debonaire and trefable to goodnesse. But whan debonairetee is

enformed of grace, thanne is it the moore worth.

PACIENCE, that is another remedie agayns ire, is a vertu that suffreth swetely every mannes goodnesse, and is nat wrooth for noon harm that is doon to hym. The philosophre seith: that Pacience is thilke vertu that suffreth debonairely alle the outrages of adversitee & every wikked word. This vertu maketh a man lyk to God, and maketh hym Goddes owene deere childe, as seith Crist. This vertu disconfiteth thyn enemy. And therfore seith the wise man: If thou wilt vengysse thyn enemy, lerne to suffre. And thou shalt understonde, that man suffreth foure manere of grevances in outward thynges; agayns the whiche foure he moot have foure manere of paciencies.

THE firste grevance is of wikkede wordes; thilke suffred Jhesu Crist withouten grucchyng, ful patiently, whan the Jewes despised and reprieved hym ful ofte. Suffre thou therfore patiently; for the wise man seith: If thou stryve with a fool, though the fool be wrooth or though he laughe, algate thou shalt have no reste.

THAT oother grevance outward is to have damage of thy catel. Theragayns suffred Crist ful patiently, whan he was despoyled of al that he hadde in this lyf, and that nas but his clothes.

THE thridde grevance is a man to have harm in his body. That suffred Crist ful patiently in al his passioum.

THE fourthe grevance is in outrageous labour in werkes. Wherfore I seye, that folk that maken hir servants to travaillen so grevously, or out of tyme, as on halydayes, soothly they do greet synne. Heeragayns suffred Crist ful patiently, & taughte us pacience, whan he baar upon his blissed shulder the croys, upon which he sholde suffren despitous deeth. Heere may men lerne to be patient; for certes, noght oonly Cristen men been patient for love of Jhesu Crist, & for guerdoun of the blisful lyf that is perdurable; but certes, the olde payens, that nevere were Cristene, commendede & useden the vertu of pacience.

A PHILOSOPHRE upon a tyme, that wolde have beten his disciple for his grete trespas, for which he was greetly amoved, and broghte a yerde to scourge the child; and whan this child saugh the yerde, he seyde to his maister: What thenke ye to do? I wol bete thee, quod the maister, for thy correccioun. forsothe, quod the child; ye oghten first correcte youreself, that han lost al youre pacience for the gilt of a child. forsothe, quod the maister, al wepyngge, thou seyst